



E m e r a l d C o a s t U t i l i t i e s A u t h o r i t y

# Customer Pipeline

## Recycle Plastic Bags... at the Retailer!

Plastic shopping bags can be very useful, beginning with the initial trip home from the store, to serving as lightweight packing material or trash can liners. Nevertheless, what should you do with those you don't need? If they're in good shape, consider taking them back to the store to reuse. If not, several retailers throughout our community have implemented plastic bag collection programs that facilitate the return and recycling of plastic shopping bags.



The program requires the involvement of both retailers and consumers to be successful. The retailers' role is to provide an accessible, clearly marked collection bin for the plastic bags. The consumers' role is to collect the plastic bags and bring them to a collection point as part of a regular trip to the store. Please take note of the different retailers you visit regularly to see if they offer a plastic bag recycling depot, and make use of it.

Plastic shopping bags are not accepted in the ECUA recycling program. Despite that, we encourage their use to contain lightweight packing materials, glass, papers, and other items that are placed in the recycling container. We also recommend using one bag to hold several shopping bags that you are discarding in the garbage.

These are just a few more ways that we can all work together to keep our community clean and litter-free.

## The Main Street WasteWaterTreatment Plant Demolition Update:

Everyone's question these days seems to be "What's happening with the old Main Steet Plant?" Actually, things are coming along quite well: The contractor on the site is continuing with the demolition phase. Almost all of the structures have been removed from the site at this point.

Additionally, the contractor is preparing for earth work and grading activities, and plans to be substantially complete with the project by the end of June, 2012. Final completion of the contract is not anticipated until late August.



## Mark Your Calendars

ECUA offices will be closed on **Wednesday, July 4**, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

## Sanitation Pick-up Schedules for the Independence Day Holiday

**Residential Customers**  
Garbage, Yard Trash & Recycling Services

**Tuesday** collection (7/3/12) will be made on **Monday** (7/2/12).

**Wednesday** collection (7/4/12) will be made on **Tuesday** (7/3/12).

**Commercial Customers**  
Dumpster Services

There is no change to commercial collection schedule.

**Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!**

## Emerald Coast Utilities Authority

## Thirty Years of Environmental Leadership: ECUA's ECO-Machine

As ECUA marks its thirtieth year, we are celebrating the environmental initiatives we have achieved to date, and those we look forward to implementing in the future. This month, we're focusing on our "ECO-Machine" Sanitation vehicle.

Last June, we were bursting with pride as we rolled out our ECO-Machine for its first public appearance sporting a wrap-around graphic design, at the 62nd annual "Pen Air Federal Credit Union Fiesta Day Parade."

In operation since October 2010, our ECO-Machine vehicle is a Peterbilt Model 320 HLA (Hydraulic Launch Assist) Hybrid sanitation truck used for the collection of residential garbage. It is considerably quieter when compared to standard sanitation trucks in its daily stop, pick-up, and go operations. The ECO-Machine delivers a significant thirty to forty percent reductions in emissions, with a thirty percent improvement in fuel economy. Even better, brake-related maintenance costs are significantly reduced, doubling the brakes' life expectancy while using biodegradable hydraulic oil, which is friendlier to the environment.

ECUA Deputy Director of Shared Services Randy Rudd says, "During this first year, ECUA gathered performance and maintenance data while we operated this vehicle. We are using this information now to compare the hydraulic hybrid system against other hybrid alternatives, and compressed natural gas-powered vehicles. After eighteen months on the road, we are seeing an even-better-than-expected performance on the brake system, which has yet to be replaced. Ordinarily, we would have had to replace the brake system about 6 times per year, at an annual cost of \$12,000 per vehicle. In fact, we're cautiously optimistic that we might go more than 2 years before the brake system finally needs to be replaced. On a fleet of 50 vehicles, this will mean significant savings."

Now that our Eco-Machine has been out on the streets, perhaps you've had a chance to see it and give our driver a wave!

**Next month: Water Resource Management: Protecting and preserving our sole source of drinking water.**



## Prescription Drug Round-Up Another Success

The ECUA, Pensacola Police Department and Escambia County Sheriff's Office (ESCO), in coordination with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and area CVS pharmacies, teamed-up on Saturday, April 28, to raise awareness of a growing concern: the improper disposal of unwanted prescription medications.

The "Prescription Drug Round-Up" was held at seven locations, yielding over 129 pounds of expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutically-controlled substances and over-the-counter medications. Valued at an estimated half million dollars, the amassed pharmaceuticals are now headed for proper destruction and disposal by incineration.



The Environmental Protection Agency has been studying unused pharmaceutical disposal practices, prompted by the concern that potentially large amounts of pharmaceuticals are being flushed or disposed of down household drains, ultimately ending up in rivers, streams and coastal waters. Pharmaceuticals are being discovered in our nation's waters at very low concentrations, and to date, no evidence has been found on human health effects or in the environment.

While the sources of these pharmaceuticals may be numerous, the good news is the ECUA water is safe. Why? The Authority doesn't draw our water supply from surface waters, such as streams, rivers or lakes. We have 32 active wells drawing our water from a ground water source, the Sand-and-Gravel Aquifer, not surface waters.



**Please Note:** The May issue of *The Customer PipeLine* included all the methods available to pay your ECUA bill. Information related to the bank branches at which payments may be made should have referred to Wells Fargo Bank instead of Wachovia Bank, which is the bank's former name.

**Customer Service: 476-0480 • [www.ecua.fl.gov](http://www.ecua.fl.gov) • [customer.service@ecua.fl.gov](mailto:customer.service@ecua.fl.gov)**

**Commercial Sanitation Customer Service: 476-0480 • After-hours Emergency Calls: 476-5110**